

Oh! The Terrible Review of 1918—By Briggs

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MAKE A RESOLUTION EVEN IF YOU DON'T KEEP IT

From time immemorial it has been the custom to make New Year resolutions. Dating back to the same time it has been customary to break them.

The jokesmiths have made great sport of the New Year resolution, and many persons who otherwise might be constrained to make a profitable resolve have deferred it because they doubted their strength to withstand temptation, and thereby exaggerated their weakness.

The custom of making resolutions should not be abandoned. The person who resolves to do a good turn is more likely to do it than the person who makes no resolution. The person who makes a resolution and breaks it is stronger than if he had lacked the courage to make it. Each succeeding resolution leaves a person stronger than he was when he made the first one.

There is good to be gotten out of a resolve, even though it never materializes, and there is no end of satisfaction in the resolution that is observed.

A good resolution inspires respect in one for himself. He might have thought he lacked sympathy or sentiment, or that he had grown crusty and unsympathetic. The resolution is likely to reveal a lot of unsuspected good that a man sometimes forgets that he possesses.

A resolution is a potential performance. The act of making it is evidence that the thing can be done. The man who says no more than "I resolve to be honest" will find that he has set up a barrier that he must first tear down before he can take advantage of his neighbor. It will rise before his eyes as an intangible obstacle to every unworthy suggestion of advantage.

The woman who says, "I will repeat no unkind thing of my neighbor," may not attain to perfection by a single bound, but the resolution once made will bridle many a thoughtless tongue that meant no harm, but carried with it a sting that time might not erase from the reputation of some indiscreet but innocent character.

This is a good time to make a resolution. The world is launching into a new era. This country is marking a new course in national affairs. We have launched into an uncharted sea, and there is no chart or compass so reliable as the simple resolve to be just and exact justice.

There is comfort and satisfaction in meditation along these lines. The man who will do it will find he is better than he thought he was, and he will reveal it unconsciously to those with whom he comes in contact. He will be a little gentler, if nothing else, a little more sympathetic with the frailties of others, perhaps; maybe he will see some good where before he found only fault, and the world will, after all, be a more cheerful place in which to live.

About the only differences that ever arise between men are points of view. One is as likely to be right as the other, if both have the same moral foundations. If both are obstinate they can never come to agreement, but if one is reasonable the other may be made to approach the issue from the proper point of view.

It would be well for each one to resolve to work harder this year than ever before; to give more to the things that are worthy, and strive harder to lay a little something by. Contentment rests upon prosperity, and prosperity is largely within the grasp of the man who makes opportunity.

If there are a lot of worthy resolutions and a lot more of serious deliberations upon the theme of being one's brother's keeper, the close of the year will find a better situation, and everyone who takes the trouble to make the resolutions will have a happier year. Make the resolution if you think you will break it. Make it to show that you have that much moral stamina. It is worth it.

GREATNESS

An English publicist, journalist, or whatever men who write for their own amusement wish to call themselves, has announced the names of the twelve greatest men produced by the war.

Notwithstanding President Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Foch are among the list, as are Levine and Wilhelm, it must appear obvious that the place of none is secure except that of the military heroes.

The battles that are to be fought on the field and on the sea—and we observe that none of the great ones are among the sea fighters in the list prepared—are over. They may be written into the permanent history of the world. What has been gained and what has been lost is established. But with statesmen it is different. It often has been said that it is not safe to name a child for a statesman unless he is dead.

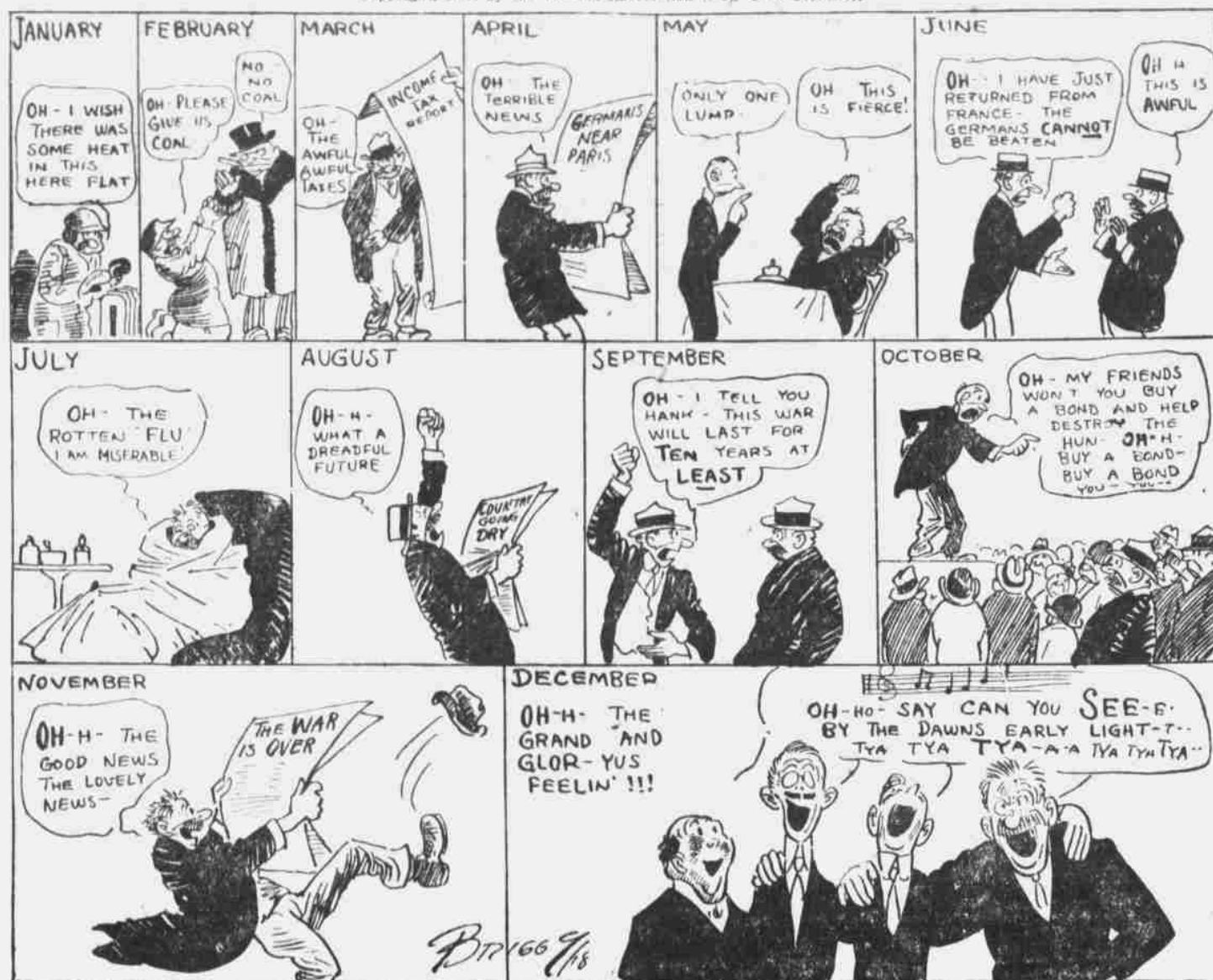
The great work of diplomacy is still untouched. The best minds of Europe and America have not yet gotten together the tangled threads of disorder, much less made any headway in the work of harmonizing the discordant elements that set all the world awry.

It is not the tree that has been planted, but the fruit it brings forth that will count. Before the end of the peace conference, we take it, there will be reputations made, and perhaps some will be lost. It all depends upon the loyalty with which they sustain the principles they are pledged to support. There will be alluring influences at the council table that will search for weak spots in the souls of those who speak for the nations. The men who come away unsullied by the suspicion of selfish interest, and with none of the enthusiasm for righteousness in the least abated, will have their permanent places among the great men produced by the war.

MORE COTTON

In any direction that one may ride 60 miles from Memphis he will meet and pass through cotton fields that do not seem to have been picked over. Of a truth the fields are white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. War, of course, explains all. But surely with cotton selling for say 25 cents the pound, it should pay handsomely to pick out the staple. Planters are paying as high as \$2 the hundred for cotton picking. An average negro family will pick out 600 pounds a day, which will make 200 pounds of lint cotton, and at 25 cents the pound will aggregate more than \$50.

This crop should not be wasted. It should be gathered carefully and marketed, not only to compensate the ones who raised it, but to add to the general wealth of the nation, and especially of the South.



DOROTHY DIX'S TALK

BY DOROTHY DIX,
The World's Highest Paid Woman Writer.

A SCHOOL FOR IN-LAWS.

A Philadelphia man wants to start a school for mothers-in-law, to which every woman should be committed for a six months' term on the eve of her children's marriage. Needless to say it is a reform school with a discipline that makes any other penal institution look like a gay and carefree summer resort. It is impossible to say how such an experiment in forcibly inculcating virtue in the breast of a woman with married children would turn out. Criminologists are much in doubt as to the ethical value of correctional institutions. The mother-in-law might come out of the mother-in-law reformatory with all of her vicious habits from her. She might come out with a fresh supply of mother-in-law tricks and nagging that she had learned from hardened mother-in-laws who were serving their third or fourth sentence.

However, there is no denying that the crying need of the day is for some place, or some way, in which women can learn the gentle art of being an in-law. It is the in-law question that is at the bottom of nine-tenths of the divorces, is the cause of more heartbreaks and tears than all the other sources of human misery combined. And the problem of the in-law is an essentially feminine one. Men seem to have solved it successfully. Most fathers-in-law and sons-in-law are able to smoke the pipe of peace together, and to exist on neutral ground, in affectionate terms with the female relatives they have acquired by marriage. But when two women are brought together in the relationship of in-laws there is something about the artificial connection that seems to bring out everything that is mean and selfish in their disposition as it is not possible to bring out the meanness.

They bump their heads and spit at each other at sight in spite of the fact that they are perfectly aware that by so doing they are going to jeopardize not only their own happiness, but that of the unfortunate man who is the bone of contention between them, and whom both of them think they love. Certainly a school for mothers-in-law that would teach them to deal with forbearance with tact and discretion with their sons and daughters-in-law is a much needed institution, and it is not hard to suggest what its curriculum should be.

It should begin with combating the old fallacy that when a woman's son marries she gets a new daughter, and when her daughter marries she gets a new son. She doesn't. This miracle no more takes place physically than it does mentally.

Four own children are used to all of your little ways and know that your nagging simply means your over-anxious mother love and interest in them. Therefore they can forgive it. To your in-laws, who are not used to you and have no affection for you, your nagging is simply an intolerable affliction, not to be borne. Also, your own children, you make a million excuses for everything that they do and don't do, but you sit in stern judgment on the shortcomings of your in-laws and they resent your unjust criticism accordingly. Therefore learn as the first lesson in the mother-in-law course that your in-laws are strangers and treat them as such.

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THE IMPETUOUS YANK.

The advance was rapid, amazingly so. Meeting the long-expected offensive, our divisions broke through, passed all objectives, and dashed on. A national victory, which has lain fallow ever since sunset at Gettysburg, flowered again in the dawn of the day at Chateau Thierry. Prodigious souls found the savings of 50 years into the shanty town of the poorhouse than with their married children, millions of grateful people will rise and bless his name.

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On the Spur of the Moment

by Roy K. Moulton

Our favorite old guide, philosopher and friend, Ben Broadway, observes that the starving Germans have abolished needless days and allowed themselves more bread. For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the beaten German is peculiar.

Our news from the peace conference is going to be crested and then cabled.

Henry Ford must have more money than he knows what to do with. He is going to start a newspaper.

There can be no doubting that Von Tirpitz is brave to the point of recklessness. He has shaved off his 50 years' growth of whiskers right at the beginning of a long, cold winter.

The waiters on strike, says a report, do not get much sympathy from the cafe customers. The customers have been expressing their sympathy for a good many years through the medium of substantial tips.

FRENCH AT A GLANCE.

Horse de combat—Wartime beef.
Pate de foie gras—Clean out the kitchen.
Chevalier d'industrie—Man who starts with a pin and soon owns a steel corporation.
Maitre de hotel—Boy who hands you the bad news on the cafe check.

Chef d'hoover—Something to eat, but not very much.
Noblesse oblige—The higher they are, the harder they fall.
Nom de plume—A pen name, like Sing Sing.
Vermisseau—A worm (see ultimate consumer).

If Mr. Taft, in the capacity of one-man commission, can clean up the baseball war, he will be entitled to the Nobel prize next year.

Judging by the rate at which sanitary plants are being built along the K. K. Atlantic seaboard, the returning soldiers are not only going to be demobilized, but decolored.

Went to see a Revolutionary romance in the movies the other night and the young Continental officer who was the hero stood talking to the heroine, and as he did so he leaned against a telephone pole.

Some people ask what's the matter with the pictures. There's nothing the matter with 'em. They're great.

Most all the men in this country are brave to the point of recklessness. Hardly any of them wear suspenders any more.

People in the different parts of China don't speak the same language—Consular report.

And they wouldn't have anything interesting to say if they did.

"American Medical Journal asks: 'What makes us tall or short?' We know what makes us short.

Buddy observed the following sign in a Sixth avenue restaurant: "THE PROPRIETOR EATS HERE, TOO."

We have been considerably perplexed, trying to decide whether this headline found in a Western paper, is a knock or a boost: "Soldier's Romance Ends With Wedding."

So long as our confidence is in finite things our strength will be finite.—Robert E. Speer, Dayton, Ohio.

Some trust in charlottes, and some in horses, but we will make mention of the name of the Lord our God—Ps. 118.

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